

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 DHA-05 MCT-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /113 W
-----089529 140232Z /70

R 130850Z OCT 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8905
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CH UR XF MPOL MARR US SOPN
SUBJ: NCNA ARTICLE ON JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT

1. SUMMARY: ON OCTOBER 12, THE NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY
FIRST NOTED THE JOINT SOVIET - AMERICAN STATEMENT ON
THE MIDDLE EAST BUT HAS NOT YET COMMENTED AUTHORITATIVELY
ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THE OCTOBER 12 ARTICLE CONFINES
ITSELF TO REPLAYING FOREIGN PRESS REACTION TO THE JOINT
STATEMENT, CAREFULLY NOTING THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S
STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIET UNION MADE CONCESSIONS " AT THE
EXPENSE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES' INTERESTS." END SUMMARY

2. SO FAR, THE PRC HAS NOT AUTHORITATIVELY COMMENTED ON
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THE JOINT SOVIET-AMERICAN STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST
BUT WE EXPECT THAT THE CHINESE WILL SOON FOCUS ON THE
JOINT STATEMENT, ALLEGING THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS
"MEDDLIN" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE UNITED STATES
HAS LOST ITS "RESOLVE" IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIETS.
AN OCTOBER 12 NCNA ARTICLE NOTED THE JOINT STATEMENT
BUT AVOIDED DETAILING THE CHINESE POSITION. INSTEAD,

THE ARTICLE REPLAYED FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTARY WHICH EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD OBTAINED A PARTIAL VICTORY BY ENSURING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, "IT IS NECESSARY TO BE ON GUARD AGAINST THE HIGH PRICES THAT THE SOVIET UNION ASKS FOR" (OCTOBER 5, DAILY TELEGRAPH COMMENTARY).

3. THE ARTICLE ALSO REFERRED TO CAIRO PRESS REPORTS OF EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S STATEMENT THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD MADE THREEE CONCESSIONS IN THE JOINT STATEMENT, INCLUDING MAKING NO REFERENCE TO THE PLO AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, NOT DEMANDING THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, AND AGREEING THAT THE "NORMALIZATION" OF ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS WILL BE BASED ON INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTUAL DOCUMENTS -- A VIOLATION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. FAHMY IS ALSO REPORTED AS HAVING STATED THE SOVIET UNION MADE THESE CONCESSIONS "AT THE EXPENSE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES INTEREST."

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO REPEATED THE CHINESE POSITION THAT THE "VARIOUS CONTRADICTIONS" IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE DUE TO THE "INTENSIFIED CONTENTION" BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.
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THE REGION IS DESCRIBED AS BEING SO IMPORTANT TO THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES THAT NEITHER "WILL LET LOOSE ITS CONTROL OF THE REGION." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY EMPHASIZING PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENTS OF PROSPECTS FOR A PEACEFUL ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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